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Viewing cable 08BOGOTA1954, GOC BEGINS INVESTIGATIONS ON INDIVIDUALS WITH FARC

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA1954**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08BOGOTA1954	2008-05-27 19:27	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #1954/01 1481927
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 271927Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2994
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8208
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0483
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAY 9462
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6228
RUEHQP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 1781
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6886
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4441
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 001954

SIPDIS

FOR WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/27/2018

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: GOC BEGINS INVESTIGATIONS ON INDIVIDUALS WITH FARC
TIES

REF: BOGOTA 1567

Classified By: Political Counselor John S. Creamer
Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

SUMMARY

¶1. (C) The Prosecutor General (Fiscalia) announced it is investigating nine individuals, including a U.S. citizen and three other foreigners, for alleged ties to the FARC, and has also asked the Supreme Court to investigate three Colombian legislators. The investigations result from the Fiscalía's preliminary analysis of material found in the Raul Reyes computers. The opposition Polo party issued a statement supporting three Polo members under investigation; some human rights groups claimed the investigations aim to distract attention from the ongoing parapolitical scandal. Still, Polo Senator Gustavo Petro told us he does not discount the possibility that some Polo members maintained inappropriate ties with the FARC, proof of which he believes could split the Polo apart. End Summary

FARC-POLITICA INVESTIGATIONS

¶2. (U) Prosecutor General Mario Iguaran announced May 22 the launch of official investigations against twelve individuals presumed to have relations with the FARC. The initial evidence for the investigations comes from correspondence from the computer files of FARC Secretariat member Raul Reyes, killed by Colombian military forces on March 1. In what is dubbed by local media as the first chapter of the "Farcpolitica," some individuals are being investigated for allegedly providing political advice or arms to the FARC while others allegedly knew the locations of kidnapped victims but never shared the information with authorities.

¶3. (U) Prominent officials under investigation include Liberal Party Senator Piedad Cordoba, Polo Democratico (and Communist Party) legislators Wilson Borja and Gloria Ines Ramirez, former presidential candidate Alvaro Leyva, and Communist newspaper editor (and Polo member) Carlos Lozano. The GOC had, at various times, authorized Lozano, Leyva, Cordoba, and Borja to reach out to the FARC to promote a humanitarian accord. Several human rights groups and commentators charged the GOC with trying to block all efforts to promote a humanitarian exchange. Others argued that in initiating the investigation the GOC is trying to divert attention from the ongoing parapolitica scandal which has implicated over 50 members of the governing coalition.

¶4. (C) Four foreigners - including American citizen James Jones - are under investigation as well. Jones allegedly maintained ongoing correspondence with Reyes and worked on the FARC's behalf. In March, Semana magazine published excerpts of one of Jones' letters to Reyes, in which he offered to serve as a communications "bridge" between the FARC and a U.S. Congressman. Presidential advisor Jose Obdulio Gaviria told us in February that the GOC was considering pursuing criminal charges against Jones, as well as U.S. citizen James Petras.

¶5. (U) Investigators presented over 900 emails between Cordoba (using an alias "Teodora de Bolivar") and different FARC contacts. The Fiscalía reports that the tone and content of the Cordoba emails indicate she "exceeded" her political role and provided advice and guidance to the FARC. Venezuelan Congressman Amilkar Figueroa is believed to have facilitated the delivery of arms to the terrorist group. Figueroa called the investigation a "witch hunt" and accused the GOC of trying to distract attention from its "internal political crisis." Ecuadorian Congresswoman Maria Augusta

Calle allegedly loaned her Quito bank account to the FARC and may have received financial support from the terrorist group.

POLO REACTION

¶6. (C) In an official communique, the Polo party reiterated its support for the proper pursuit of justice while expressing confidence in the innocence of its three members (the two representatives and Lozano). Cordoba and Borja called the investigation a "smokescreen" while Ramirez accused the GOC of trying to jeopardize humanitarian exchange efforts. Polo Senator Gustavo Petro, who opposes Borja and Ramirez in the Polo's internal elections, does not discount the possibility that the two maintained inappropriate ties with the FARC. The FARC and the Communist Party maintained formal relations from 1974-1993. If the two were implicated in ongoing relations with the FARC, Petro said, it would split the Polo apart.

BROWNFIELD